



UNITED STATES SENATOR · MICHIGAN  
**DEBBIE STABENOW**  
PRESS RELEASE



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**Stabenow Urges President Bush to Restore COPS Funding**  
**COPS Program has been a huge success in Michigan -- more than**  
**3,400 new police officers have been hired in Michigan alone**

WASHINGTON--U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and a number of her Senate colleagues are leading an effort to urge President Bush to restore funding for the extremely successful COPS program in his formal budget proposal. Unfortunately, the budget that President Bush recently submitted to Congress contained no funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program which has provided for the hiring of more than 100,000 new police officers across the country over the last six years, and more than 3,400 new officers in Michigan.

"I was extremely disappointed to learn that the Bush Administration has proposed to end the extremely popular and successful COPS program," Stabenow stated. "As I have traveled around Michigan, I have continually heard from local government and law enforcement agencies throughout the state how instrumental the COPS program has been in their efforts to reduce crime. The COPS program has been a tremendous success and it would be a huge mistake to eliminate this program."

Crime rates are down in both large and small communities throughout Michigan that have received funding through the COPS program. For example, COPS has provided funding for 53 additional police officers in Muskegon County, and crime rates there have declined by 26.6 percent. Today, 123 new police officers are patrolling the streets in the Saginaw area thanks to the COPS program, and crime rates in Saginaw have declined by over 23 percent. The Grand Rapids area has received funding to hire 65 police officers through the COPS program, and crime rates have decreased by 4.4 percent since the COPS program began in 1994. [FBI Crime Reports, 1994 and 1998]

In their letter to the President, Senator Stabenow and her colleagues' reference the Administration's recent budget proposal, *A Blueprint for New Beginnings*. It suggests a \$1.5 billion cut in federal support for state and local law enforcement budgets, including absolutely no funding for the COPS program. As their letter to the President continues, they point out that "if included in the complete budget you submit to Congress in early April, these cuts would signal a misguided retreat from our joint commitment to keep crime down."

"It is my hope that the Bush Administration will seriously rethink their decision to eliminate this extremely successful and worthwhile program," Stabenow concluded.

**A copy of the letter to President Bush is attached.**

